

REMARKS

There were 18 claims in the original application numbered 1 – 18. Claims 1, 9, and 14 are the independent claims. With this Office Action Response there are 18 claims numbered 1 – 18. Claims 1, 3 – 8, and 10 – 18 (original) and claim 2 and 9 (previously presented).

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims argued herein is respectfully requested.

The § 102 Rejections

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 – 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Notani (6,119,149).

The following arguments presented by the Applicant are directed generally at claims 1 – 18 and specifically to claims 1, 9, and 14.

Claims 1 - 18

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner responds to Applicant's arguments that "Notani does not disclose a computer program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks..." with the following statements:

First, the Examiner states at page 2 that "Notani discloses a method and corresponding system for allowing collaboration during decision making comprising a computer

program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks” in that Notani “(discloses global collaboration framework for delegating decision making and tasks to the appropriate system). . . .” Applicant cannot find in Notani its basis for delegating tasks, at least not in a manner consistent with Applicant’s invention. Applicant believes that the global collaboration framework disclosed in Notani (illustrated in Notani Figs. 2, 3, and 5) merely illustrates the connectivity of some elements of Notani and is fairly typical of the connectivity found in many such systems. It neither teaches nor discloses a computer program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks, thus Notani does not teach the invention.

Second, the Examiner at the end of page 2 of the office action continuing on to page 3 states that Notani discloses “a ser4ver [sic] coupled to a hub for performing simple and complex tasks (the server coupled to the hub processes multiple collaborations and is capable of delegating out simple and complex tasks). . . .” Applicant finds that Notani refers to tasks on only two occasions and only once in the true context of a workflow and does not appear to characterize the complexity. While Notani discusses parameterizing workflows and distributing workflows, Notani does not appear to state that parameterizing a workflow includes a computer program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks, or that tasks are assigned to servers based on their processing ability (i.e. heavyweight server or lightweight server). Notani neither teaches nor discloses a computer program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks, thus Notani does not teach the invention.

Third, the Examiner states on page 3 that Notani “[parses and determines] the relative complexity of tasks associated in a message (global collaboration system is able to parse

and determine the complexity of a task). Applicant can find no mention in Notani of “parsing” per se. Applicant does find that Notani states the following “The global collaboration designer can be used to create sophisticated multi-enterprise workflows with synchronous, asynchronous, sub-workflow, and-splits, or-splits, synchronization-joins, heterocast-splits, heterocast-joins etc.” Applicant believes, however, that without an enabling explanation of the form and function of each part, no teaching of parsing is present. Moreover, Applicant believes that when Notani creates a split or join there is no disclosure in Notani to support that it is the result of determining the complexity of a task.

Notani also states that “A ‘parametric workflow’ is a workflow that is parameterized over some variable and can be regular or distributed. Instantiating the parametric workflow with different values of the parameter variable(s) produces different instances of the workflow. A ‘distributed workflow parameterized over nodes in a node group’ can refer to distributed workflows where the parameters of the workflow are the nodes in a node group. Hence, when the workflow is instantiated it is tailored to a particular node in a node group.” Notani does not appear to disclose or claim what a variable can be or exactly what the variable relates to other than a single example that the variable can be nodes in a workgroup and different variables produce different instances of a workflow. Applicant finds no disclosure that Notani parametrizes its workflows based on the complexity of tasks, and Notani neither claims or discloses a computer program coupled to each hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks. Thus, Notani does not teach the invention.

Fourth, the Examiner states at page 3 that Notani discloses “sending moderate to high complexity tasks to a heavyweight server (global collaboration system is able to parse and determine the complexity of a task), and sending simple tasks to a lightweight server (the global collaboration system is able to delegate simple tasks to the appropriate server).” Applicant finds no disclosure in Notani that it “delegates simple tasks to the appropriate server”, no disclosure that it can even determine what a simple task is, and no disclosure that it differentiates between heavyweight servers and lightweight servers. In fact, Applicant cannot find these keywords or their equivalents in the text in this context. With reference to at least claim 1, Notani does not suggest or disclose a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks, thus Notani does not disclose the invention. With reference to at least to claim 9, Notani does not suggest or disclose sending a moderate to high complexity task to a heavyweight server and sending one or more simple tasks to a lightweight server.

Applicant has argued specifically against the statements set forth by the Examiner on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. These arguments relate specifically to independent claims 1, 9, and 14. For at least the reasons cited in the arguments above, it is believed that claims 1, 9, and 14 are allowable over Notani. All other claims in the application depend from claims 1, 9, or 14. For at least this reason and the reasons cited above it is believed that claims 2 - 8, 10 - 13, and 15 - 18 are allowable over Notani.

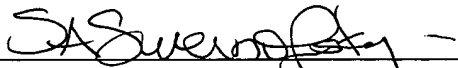
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 28, 2005



Steven A. Swernofsky
Reg. No. 33,040

Swernofsky Law Group PC
P.O. Box 390013
Mountain View, CA 94039-0013
(650) 947-0700